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**REGENTS UNVEILS ELECTRONIC ARTICULATION COURSE MATRIX
(BOR E-Matrix)**

BATON ROUGE - Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie activated a new electronic course articulation tool today during a press conference in Baton Rouge. The Board of Regents E-Matrix is an on-line, interactive system that will allow students enrolled at Louisiana public colleges or universities to view specific general education courses for which they have received credit or intend to take. A student can then query the matrix to find out how that credit would be applied at another public institution in the system. The electronic site is designed to enhance completion rates in Louisiana's higher education system by reducing the potential loss of credit when a student transfers between institutions.

"We are pleased to offer this on-line service to students to assist them in gaining initial information regarding course transfers. Ease of transfer is an important issue for thousands of students enrolled in our public institutions. When the Regents Master Plan is fully implemented by 2005, many Louisiana students will be entering our family of institutions through the doors of one school, but may be completing their studies at another. Today's e-matrix represents another step in our ongoing efforts to meet students' needs for services in an efficient and effective manner," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie.

During today's press conference, Savoie unveiled the system by activating it for student browsing. Immediately following the demonstration of the system, student government association members from institutions around the state attending the event tested the e-matrix to demonstrate its usefulness.

The Louisiana Legislature in the 1998 Extraordinary Session directed the Board of Regents to "provide for the implementation of a computer-based system of articulation assessment that is accessible by all postsecondary students." Savoie gave significant credit to Steven Perry, former chief of staff for Governor Foster and currently President of the Convention and Tourism Bureau of New Orleans, for the development of the matrix. Perry insisted that the higher education community develop an easily-accessible articulation system to facilitate student transfer. The Board of Regents enlisted the assistance of

the LSU Computing Services Center to create a statewide electronic articulation matrix based on the internal electronic matrix which LSU had already developed.

Today's initial system is the first step in the development of a full on-line site. The initial e-matrix includes general education courses like English, math, science and history. Additional courses and entire degree programs will be added as the matrix is continuously enhanced. One important enhancement to be added soon is the inclusion of general education courses from the Louisiana Technical College (LTC). Courses are added to the matrix after approval by a statewide articulation committee which determines compatible course content among and between institutions. Those approved courses are then reviewed by campus faculty and ultimately approved by the Board of Regents.

The current articulation matrix has grown from 12 general education courses in 1996 to 80 courses, in addition to degree programs in business and biological sciences. Allied Health is the next program scheduled to be included. Eventually all of the approved matrix courses will be added to the e-matrix.

"This is a work in progress, but I am proud that we have arrived at this point. The students are the real beneficiaries of this work. The e-matrix meets today's students' needs for convenience. It can be accessed at their own time – day or night," Savoie said.

Students are invited to use the e-matrix as a search tool in informing tentative transfer decisions. Before making any final transfer decisions, students should request an official transcript review from the institution they are planning to attend.

The e-matrix can be found on the website of the Louisiana Board of Regents at www.regents.state.la.us under "BOR E-Matrix."